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EXAMINER

CHONG CRUZ, NADJA N

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PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/686,642	Applicant(s) STUHEC, GUNTHER	
	Examiner NADJA CHONG CRUZ	Art Unit 3623	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 06 April 2009.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-32 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-32 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Status of Claims

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 6 April 2009 has been entered.
2. Claims 1, 21, 23 and 25 have been amended.
3. Claims 1-32 are currently pending and have been examined.
4. The rejections of claims 1-32 have been updated to reflect the amendments.

Response to Amendment

5. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action.
6. The rejection of claims 1-20 under 35 USC § 112, 2nd paragraph is withdrawn in light of Applicant's amendments and arguments.

Response to Arguments

7. Applicant's arguments received on 6 April 2009 have been fully considered but are not persuasive.
8. With regard to claims 1, 9, 19, 21-23 and 25, Applicant argues that the prior art of record, specifically that Nielsen does not disclose, or even suggest (1) *"defining a sequence of business transactions to be executed"* and *"creating a business schema by assigning a document to each business transaction in the sequence of business transactions."* (page 12, last Paragraph); (2) *Nielsen does not disclose or suggest the claimed "creating a business schema by assigning a document to each business transaction in the sequence of business transactions."* (page 13,

Art Unit: 3623

second paragraph) and (3) *Nielsen does not disclose or suggest that a document is assigned to "each business transaction in the sequence of business transactions"* (page 14, first paragraph).

9. Applicant's arguments (1), (2) and (3) with respect to claims 1, 9, 19, 21-23 and 25 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection. Please see the rejection below.
10. With regard to claim 12, Applicant *respectfully requests that documentary evidence be provided with respect to the assertion of Official Notice.*

Documentary evidence to support the Official Notice that it is old and well known in information system and software developing environment and to one of the ordinary skill in the art to use a selection mask (e.g., a filter) with a pull-down options is evidenced by JavaScript Drop Down Boxes, Adding Drop Down Boxes (<http://web.archive.org/web/20001205095500/http://pageresource.com/jscript/jdropbox.htm>)

December 5, 2000 where page 1 illustrate a drop down box and Ellis et al., Button vs. menus: An explanatory study of pull-down menu selection as compared to buttons bars, Human-Computer Interaction Laboratory, June 1995 which teaches the effectiveness a pull-down menu selection. Therefore, the use of a selection mask with a pull-down options is old and well known in the art.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

11. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.
12. Claims 1-8, 10-11, 13-18, 20-21 and 23-32 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nielsen et al., B2B Collaborative Commerce with Sametime, QuickPlace and WebSphere Commerce Suite, *IBM International Technical Support Organization*, International Business Machine Corporation; August 2001; 274 pages; ibm.com/redbooks, hereinafter

"Nielsen" in view of Jean-Jacques Dubray, OAGIS Implementation Using the ebXML CPP, CPA and BPSS specifications v1.0, 10/4/2001.

Claim 1:

Nielsen as shown discloses a computer-readable storage medium to perform a method for a first computer to participate in electronic business, the computer readable medium comprising:

- *supporting communication between the first computer having a processor and a second computer having a processor via a communication module* (pages 44-45, Figure 34 which it illustrates a Collaborative commerce application topology and Figure 98, which it illustrates a Transactional Commerce Application Topology where lines shows the communication between components and pages 223-224, Appendix B, Nodes in the application topology, B.1.1 Web application server node, which teaches that it supports "access to both public and user-specific information" and "the node provides robust services to allow users to communicate with shared applications and databases". Nielsen teaches that in a collaborative and transactional commerce application exist a communication between a server (e.g., first computer) and users or clients (e.g., second computer) in order to create a collaborative commerce solution);
- *loading the business schema from a central repository via the processor in the first computer, and a schema module* (pages 44-45, Figure 34, which it illustrates a Collaborative commerce application topology, where Real Time Collaboration Server and Commerce Server load business schemas through the WebSphere Commerce Suite application from a database (e.g., a central repository),page 225, Appendix B, Nodes in the application topology, B.1.6 Database server node, which teaches that "[t]he database server node's function is to provide a persistent data storage and retrieval service in support of the user-to-business transactional interaction" in order to create, selects and process documents using the

WebSphere Commerce Suite Application as illustrated in figure 7, pages 17-18, where a buyer can browse the catalog, create requisition lists, issue an order, see status for current orders and participate in auctions (e.g., business transactions));

- *wherein the business schema provides a communication format applied to the document assigned to one of the business transactions* (page 30, Chapter 2, A B2B scenario, 2.3.3 Illustrating the scenario with our implementation, 1st ¶ and page 122, Chapter 7, WebSphere Commerce Suite Integration, 7.2.0.1 IBM Net. Data; which teaches that “[t]he list of available pages in the catalog and elsewhere on the TECKRAFT site is delivered from WCS in XML format and then formatted in the agent application” and “[g]eneration part contains HTML or XML blocks that contain statements that specify the layout of the generated document” where Nielsen teaches that XML format is applied to the documents);
- *wherein the communication format enables the first computer to participate in electronic business with the second computer* (pages 44-45, Figure 34 which it illustrates a Collaborative commerce application topology and page 223, Figure 98, which it illustrates a Transactional Commerce Application Topology where lines shows the electronic business communication between servers and users or clients);
- *executing the sequence of business transactions between the first computer and the second computer* (page 225, Appendix B, Nodes in the application topology, B.1.6 Database server node, which teaches that “[t]he database server node's function is to provide a persistent data storage and retrieval service in support of the user-to-business transactional interaction” in order to create, selects and process documents using the WebSphere Commerce Suite Application as illustrated in figure 7, pages 17-18, where a buyer can browse the catalog, create

requisition lists, issue an order, see status for current orders and participate in auctions (e.g., business transactions));

Nielsen teaches in pages 44-45, Figure 34 illustrates a Collaborative commerce application topology, pages 17-18, Figure 7 illustrates a business schema, the TECKCRAFT transactional B2B Web site for a buyer which enables a buyer to create, select, and process documents, for example: browse the catalog of power tools, create a requisition lists, issue an order (or reorder) (e.g., a predefined sequence of business transactions combined with documents) and Figure 11 which illustrates requisition lists (e.g., a document) of a buyer in order to perform a business transaction (e.g., issue an order or reorder). Nielsen does not specifically teach how to create a business schema and predefine a sequence of business. However, Dubray in an analogous art of B2B collaboration for the purpose of creating a business schema and defining a sequence of business transactions (Figures 2-4 and 8-12) as shown does:

- *predefining a sequence of business transactions to be executed* (Figure 2 illustrates a schematic of core business transaction semantics, page 15, B2B Collaboration Definitions, which teaches that "[e]ach Business Transaction needs to be specified and choreographed" (e.g., predefining a sequence), Figure 3 illustrates OAGI Scenario 55 divided as ebXML Business Transactions and page 16, Business Transaction Definitions);
- *creating a business schema by assigning a document to each business transaction in the sequence of business transactions* (Figures 8-12 illustrates business schemas e.g., collaboration activity diagram, Figures 4 and 7 illustrates assigning a document to each business transaction e.g., RespondingBusinessActivity -> Document Envelope -> Attachment: business document);
- *and storing at least one document assigned in the business schema* (Figure 4 illustrates that at least one document assigned (e.g., businessDocument) is stored (e.g., Attachment) in the business schema (e.g., RespondingBusinessActivity));

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify Nielsen to include the teaching of Dubray because the claimed invention is merely a combination of old elements, and in the combination each element merely would have performed the same function as it did separately, and one of ordinary skill in the art would have recognized that the results of the combination were predictable.

Claim 25

As per **claim 25**, this claim encompasses substantially the same scope as claim 1. Accordingly, claim 25 is rejected in substantially the same manner as claim 1, as described above.

Claim 2:

Nielsen discloses the following limitation:

- *wherein the second computer is under control of a second computer program that has substantially the same functions as the first program (Chapter 1, Introduction to Collaborative Commerce, 1.2.2 Lotus Sametime 1st – 2nd ¶¶ and Figure 5: which teaches that “[l]otus Sametime” offers “a customizable, standards-based platform for instant awareness, real-time communication (chat) and online meetings with application sharing and whiteboarding capabilities” where “enables users to share live documents, applications, and a whiteboard; for example, a seller can share a spreadsheet with a buyer”. Nielsen teaches that a second computer (e.g. a buyer computer) is using the same program functions as the first computer as shown in Figure 5, which it illustrates a real-time video conferencing);*

Claim 3:

Nielsen discloses the following limitation:

- *wherein the communication module supports communication with a third computer under control of a third computer program being a business application, and wherein the predefined communication format provided by the business schema enables the first computer to participate in electronic business with the third*

computer (pages 8-9, Chapter 1, Introduction to Collaborative Commerce, 1.2.2 Lotus Sametime 1st – 2nd ¶ and Figure 5: which teaches that “[l]otus Sametime” offers “a customizable, standards-based platform for instant awareness, real-time communication (chat) and online meetings with application sharing and whiteboarding capabilities” where “enables users to share live documents, applications, and a whiteboard; for example, a seller can share a spreadsheet with a buyer”. Nielsen teaches that a user or client (e.g. a second or third computers) are using the same program functions as the first computer as shown in Figure 5, which it illustrates a real-time video conferencing);

Claim 4:

Nielsen discloses the following limitation:

- *wherein the communication module forwards the documents to the second computer and to the third computer for interpreting and processing by the second and third computer programs, respectively* (pages 8-9, Chapter 1, Introduction to Collaborative Commerce, 1.2.2 Lotus Sametime 1st – 2nd ¶ and Figure 5: which teaches that “[l]otus Sametime” offers “a customizable, standards-based platform for instant awareness, real-time communication (chat) and online meetings with application sharing and whiteboarding capabilities” where “enables users to share live documents, applications, and a whiteboard; for example, a seller can share a spreadsheet with a buyer”. Nielsen teaches that in a collaborative electronic business application, a user computer interprets and process the documents that are sent through the collaborative environment);

Claim 5:

Nielsen discloses the following limitation:

- *wherein the first computer is a personal computer* (page 225, Appendix B, Nodes in the application topology B.1.4 User node: which teaches that “[t]he user node is

most frequently a personal computing device (PC, etc.)” where Nielsen teaches that a first computer of the user node is a personal computer (e.g., PC));

Claim 6:

Nielsen discloses the following limitation:

- *wherein the communication module is adapted to use program resources on the first computer that are selected from a group, the group comprising: word processing tool* (page 9, Chapter 1, Introduction to Collaborative commerce, 1.2.3 Lotus QuickPlace 2nd ¶): which teaches that “[q]uickPlace offers a full spectrum of integrated services for team collaboration, including project management tools, Office 2000 integration and integrated workflow”);
- *a email tool* (page 101, Table 4, which teaches that an email tool enables a user to send email invitations);
- *a browser tool* (page 85, Chapter 6, QuickPlace development, 6.1 Why QuickPlace: which teaches that it has “browser-based access”);
- *and a graphic user interface tool* (Figures 11-32, which they illustrates a graphic user interface tools);

Claim 7:

Nielsen discloses the following limitation:

- *wherein the communication module is adapted to support communication with a business application, the communication module being implemented as a back-end of a client/server application* (page 11, Chapter 1, Introduction to Collaborative commerce, 1.3.1 How Lotus adds value in collaborative product design, 4th ¶): which teaches that “[d]omino simplifies design collaboration in a variety of ways. Built-in workflow can be used to route design specifications to the appropriate team members,” (e.g., support communication) “for example. Lotus’ document

management product Domino.Doc offers a robust, integrated document management repository. Domino tools for connectivity to enterprise data stores enable rapid integration with back-end ERP systems.” Nielsen teaches that Domino server tools (e.g., a communication module) is implemented as a back-end of a client/server application as shown in Figure 34);

Claim 8:

Nielsen discloses the following limitation:

- *wherein the communication module supports communication with the business application being an ERP system* (page 11, Chapter 1, Introduction to Collaborative commerce, 1.3.1 How Lotus adds value in collaborative product design, 4th ¶): which teaches that “[d]omino tools for connectivity to enterprise data stores enable rapid integration with back-end ERP systems.”);

Claim 10:

Nielsen discloses the following limitation:

- *wherein the schema module provides a selection mask to the user of the first computer to select a context for identifying documents and transactions* (page 209, Chapter 8, Sametime Development, 8.8.1 Knowing when your buyers are logged in, 8.8.1.1 Considerations for using the Sametime Connect client, 4th ¶): which teaches that “to add a filter, so the sales representative only sees the buyers he or she is associated with” where Nielsen teaches that the user selects which buyers are associate with him or her, which it is implicitly disclosed by using a selection mask, which is well known in the art as a filter that selectively includes or excludes certain values, a user selects different context regarding his or her needs);

Claim 11:

Nielsen discloses the following limitation:

- *wherein the context is selected from the group of: business process, product classification, industry classification, geopolitical, official constraints, business process role, supporting role, and system capabilities* (pages 17-18, Figure 7 which it illustrates a business process context (e.g., Create a requisition lists, Issue an order) and product classification context (e.g., Browse the catalog of power tools));

Claim 13:

Nielsen discloses the following limitation:

- *wherein a service module combines input received from the user of the program with data from the repository to generate data that goes into the business document* (page 120, Chapter 7, WebSphere Commerce Suite integration, 7.2.0.1 IBM Net.Data, 3rd ¶: which teaches that “Net.Data interprets to create dynamic Web pages with customized content based on input from the user, the current state of your databases, other data sources” and “existing business logic” and pages 123-124, Figures 73-74, which they illustrates where a user inputs data and generates a welcome page with related business document);

Claims 14 and 30:

Nielsen discloses the following limitation:

- *wherein the service module cooperates with the schema module to forward business documents with input data into the repository* (pages 17-18, Figure 7 which it illustrates an example of transactional B2B Web site and Chapter 2, B2B scenario, 2.1 The initial TECKRAFT B2B Web site: which Figure 7 illustrates data and operations related to a business where a user can browse the catalog of power tools, create requisition lists (e.g., user inputs), issue an order (or reorder) and see status of current orders. Nielsen teaches that when a user issue an order or create a requisition lists, these document are forwarded into the repository);

Claims 15 and 31:

Nielsen discloses the following limitation:

- *wherein the service module stores a downloaded schema locally on the first computer* (pages 44-45, Figure 34, which it illustrates a Collaborative commerce application topology and page 225, Appendix B, Nodes in the application topology, B.1.6 Database server node, which teaches that “[t]he database server node's function is to provide a persistent data storage and retrieval service in support of the user-to-business transactional interaction”. Furthermore, “[t]he data stored is relevant to the specific business interaction (for example, bank balance, insurance information, and current purchase by the user)” where downloaded schema are stored);

Claim 16:

Nielsen discloses the following limitation:

- *wherein the service module modifies the schema in cooperation with the user of the first computer* (page 120, Chapter 7, WebSphere Commerce Suite integration, 7.2.0.1 IBM Net.Data, 3rd ¶: which teaches that “Net.Data interprets to create dynamic Web pages with customized content based on input from the user, the current state of your databases, other data sources” and “existing business logic” and pages 123-124, Figures 73-74, which they illustrates where a user inputs data and generates a welcome page with related business document where the user modify it for example by creating a new requisition list);

Claim 17:

Nielsen discloses the following limitation:

- *wherein the service module uses graphic representations on an output device of the first computer to show a current status in a sequence of the business schema and to modify the sequence* (pages 17-18, Figure 7 which it illustrates a graphical

example of transactional B2B Web site, page 26, Figure 11, which it illustrates “Your Requisition List(s) and Chapter 2, B2B scenario, 2.1 The initial TECKRAFT B2B Web site: which Figure 7 illustrates data and operations related to a business where a user can browse the catalog of power tools, create requisition lists (e.g., user inputs), issue an order (or reorder) and see status of current orders. Nielsen teaches that in Figure 7 shows a link to see a status of current orders (e.g., a sequence of the business schema) in “View order status”, therefore a user can reorder (e.g., modify the sequence) creating a new requisition list);

Claims 18 and 32:

Nielsen discloses the following limitation:

- *wherein the service module indicates an arrival of documents to the first computer and opens the documents in the layout that has been defined by the sender of the documents* (pages 8-9, Chapter 1, Introduction to collaborative commerce, 1.2.2 Lotus Sametime, 2nd ¶¶ and 1.2.3 Lotus Quick Place 1st and 2nd ¶¶: which teaches that “Sametime also enables users to share live documents, applications, and a whiteboard; for example, a seller can share a spreadsheet with a buyer” and Figure 5 which it illustrates a Real-time video conferencing using Sametime. Nielsen teaches that when a sender share a live document to a user, he or she will receive an alert that a document has arrived and it will open in the layout and format previously defined by the sender such as “project management tools, Office 2000 integration and integrated workflow.”);

Claim 20:

Nielsen discloses the following limitation:

- *wherein layout data of documents and business data of documents are separated* (page 120, Chapter 7, WebSphere Commerce Suite integration, 7.2.0.1 IBM Net.Data: which teaches that “[n]et.Data is a macro processor that executes as

middleware on a Web server machine. You can write Net.Data application programs, called *macros*, which Net.Data interprets to create dynamic Web pages with customized content based on input from the user, the current state of your databases, other data sources, existing business logic, and other factors that you design into your macro” where Nielsen teaches that by using Net.Data a layout data of documents are creating as dynamic Web pages and the business data of documents are separated in a database. Furthermore, 7.2.0.3 Welcome page customized macro on page 129, Nielsen teaches a cascading style sheet, “<style type=“text/css”>” which is well know in the art that cascading style sheet (CSS) is used to help readers of web pages to define colors, fonts, layout, and other aspects of document presentation. Therefore enables the separation of document content from document presentation.);

Claim 21:

Nielsen as shown discloses a method to participate in electronic business, the method comprising:

- *loading the business schema from a central repository with the first processor* (pages 44-45, Figure 34, which it illustrates a Collaborative commerce application topology, where Real Time Collaboration Server and Commerce Server load business schemas through the WebSphere Commerce Suite application from a database (e.g., a central repository) and page 225, Appendix B, Nodes in the application topology, B.1.6 Database server node, which teaches that “[t]he database server node's function is to provide a persistent data storage and retrieval service in support of the user-to-business transactional interaction” in order to create, selects and process documents using the WebSphere Commerce Suite Application as illustrated in figure 7, pages 17-18, where a buyer can browse the catalog, create requisition lists, issue an order, see status for current orders and participate in auctions (e.g., business transactions));

- *to transact business that the first computer transacts with the second computer and with the third computer wherein the sequence of business transactions is executed in a predefined format that is used by the second computer and by the third computer* (pages 44-45, Figure 34, which it illustrates a Collaborative commerce application topology, pages 17-18, Figure 7 which illustrates a business schema, the TECKCRAFT transactional B2B Web site for a buyer which enables a buyer to create, select, and process documents, for example: browse the catalog of power tools, create a requisition lists, issue an order (or reorder) (e.g., a predefined sequence of business transactions combined with documents) and Figure 11 which illustrates requisition lists (e.g., a document) of a buyer in order to perform a business transaction (e.g., issue an order or reorder));Nielsen teaches that in a e-business collaborative environment more than one computers can participate as shown in page 22, Figure 10, which illustrates an scenario enabling different users to collaborate in marketplace);
- *communicating according to the business schema between the computers, wherein a first program executed by the first processor on the first computer interacts with both a second program executed by the second processor on the second computer and interacts with a business application executed by the third processor on the third computer* (pages 8-9, Figure 5, which it illustrates a real-time video conferencing, where Nielsen teaches that this predefined format enables business communication between computers in a collaborative environment as shown in pages 44-45, Figure 34 which it illustrates a Collaborative commerce application topology and page 223, Figure 98, which it illustrates a Transactional Commerce Application Topology where lines shows the electronic business communication between servers and users or clients);

- *executing the sequence of business transactions between the first, second and third processors* (page 225, Appendix B, Nodes in the application topology, B.1.6 Database server node, which teaches that "[t]he database server node's function is to provide a persistent data storage and retrieval service in support of the user-to-business transactional interaction" in order to create, select and process documents using the WebSphere Commerce Suite Application as illustrated in figure 7, pages 17-18, where a buyer can browse the catalog, create requisition lists, issue an order, see status for current orders and participate in auctions (e.g., business transactions));

Nielsen teaches in pages 44-45, Figure 34 illustrates a Collaborative commerce application topology, pages 17-18, Figure 7 illustrates a business schema, the TECKCRAFT transactional B2B Web site for a buyer which enables a buyer to create, select, and process documents, for example: browse the catalog of power tools, create a requisition lists, issue an order (or reorder) (e.g., a predefined sequence of business transactions combined with documents) and Figure 11 which illustrates requisition lists (e.g., a document) of a buyer in order to perform a business transaction (e.g., issue an order or reorder). Nielsen does not specifically teach how to create a business schema and predefine a sequence of business. However, Dubray in an analogous art of B2B collaboration for the purpose of creating a business schema and defining a sequence of business transactions (Figures 2-4 and 8-12) as shown does:

- *predefining a sequence of business transactions to be executed* (Figure 2 illustrates a schematic of core business transaction semantics, page 15, B2B Collaboration Definitions, which teaches that "[e]ach Business Transaction needs to be specified and choreographed" (e.g., predefining a sequence), Figure 3 illustrates OAGI Scenario 55 divided as ebXML Business Transactions and page 16, Business Transaction Definitions);

- *creating a business schema by assigning a document to each business transaction in the sequence of business transactions* (Figures 8-12 illustrates business schemas e.g., collaboration activity diagram, Figures 4 and 7 illustrates assigning a document to each business transaction e.g., RespondingBusinessActivity -> Document Envelope -> Attachment: business document);
- *and storing at least one document assigned in the business schema* (Figure 4 illustrates that at least one document assigned (e.g., businessDocument) is stored (e.g., Attachment) in the business schema (e.g., RespondingBusinessActivity));

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify Nielsen to include the teaching of Dubray because the claimed invention is merely a combination of old elements, and in the combination each element merely would have performed the same function as it did separately, and one of ordinary skill in the art would have recognized that the results of the combination were predictable.

Claim 23:

Nielsen as shown discloses a system for executing electronic business, the system comprising:

- *first and second computers interconnected and communicating through a network, the first and second computers being controlled by first and second programs executed on a first processor in the first computer and a second processor in the second computer, respectively, and network interfaces for communicating through the network* (pages 44-45, Figure 34, which it illustrates a Collaborative commerce application topology, page 223, Figure 98 which it illustrates a Transactional commerce application topology and pages 224-226, Appendix B, Nodes in the application topology, B.1.1 Web application server node, B.1.4 User node and B.1.10 Application and data nodes: which teaches that computers are interconnected and communicated through a network as shown in Figure 98, where the web application "node provides robust services to allow users to communicate

with shared applications and databases. In this way it acts as an interface to business functions, such as banking, lending, and HR systems". Furthermore, "[e]xisting applications are run and maintained on nodes that are installed in the internal network");

- *wherein the first computer includes a display for displaying data and operations related to the business and a user input for allowing a user of the first computer to provide data input for executing the business* (pages 17-18, Figure 7 which it illustrates an example of transactional B2B Web site and Chapter 2, B2B scenario, 2.1 The initial TECKRAFT B2B Web site: which Figure 7 illustrates data and operations related to a business where a user can browse the catalog of power tools, create requisition lists (e.g., user inputs), issue an order (or reorder) and see status of current orders);
- *and further wherein the first computer processor,, executing the first program includes a schema module to load a business schema from a central repository* (pages 44-45, Figure 34, which it illustrates a Collaborative commerce application topology, where Real Time Collaboration Server and Commerce Server load business schemas through the WebSphere Commerce Suite application from a database (e.g., a central repository),page 225, Appendix B, Nodes in the application topology, B.1.6 Database server node, which teaches that "[t]he database server node's function is to provide a persistent data storage and retrieval service in support of the user-to-business transactional interaction" in order to create, selects and process documents using the WebSphere Commerce Suite Application as illustrated in figure 7, pages 17-18, where a buyer can browse the catalog, create requisition lists, issue an order, see status for current orders and participate in auctions (e.g., business transactions));

- *wherein the business schema uses a predefined format that enables business communication between the first and second computers (pages 8-9, Figure 5, which it illustrates a real-time video conferencing, where Nielsen teaches that this predefined format enables business communication between computers, pages 44-45, Figure 34 which it illustrates a Collaborative commerce application topology and pages 223, Figure 98, which it illustrates a Transactional Commerce Application Topology where lines shows the electronic business communication between servers and users or clients);*

Nielsen teaches in pages 44-45, Figure 34 illustrates a Collaborative commerce application topology, pages 17-18, Figure 7 illustrates a business schema, the TECKCRAFT transactional B2B Web site for a buyer which enables a buyer to create, selects, and process documents, for example: browse the catalog of power tools, create a requisition lists, issue an order (or reorder) (e.g., a predefined sequence of business transactions combined with documents) and Figure 11 which illustrates requisition lists (e.g., a document) of a buyer in order to perform a business transaction (e.g., issue an order or reorder). Nielsen does not specifically teach how to create a business schema and predefine a sequence of business. However, Dubray in an analogous art of B2B collaboration for the purpose of creating a business schema and defining a sequence of business transactions (Figures 2-4 and 8-12) as shown does:

- *the business schema comprising a predefined sequence of business transactions to be executed between the first computer and the second computer and documents that are assigned to each business transaction in the sequence of business transactions (Figures 8-12 illustrates business schemas e.g., collaboration activity diagram, Figures 4 and 7 illustrates assigning a document to each business transaction e.g., RespondingBusinessActivity -> Document Envelope -> Attachment: business document, Figure 2 illustrates a schematic of core business transaction semantics, page 15, B2B Collaboration Definitions, which teaches that*

"[e]ach Business Transaction needs to be specified and choreographed" (e.g., predefining a sequence) and Figure 3 illustrates OAGI Scenario 55 divided as ebXML Business Transactions and page 16, Business Transaction Definitions);

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify Nielsen to include the teaching of Dubray because the claimed invention is merely a combination of old elements, and in the combination each element merely would have performed the same function as it did separately, and one of ordinary skill in the art would have recognized that the results of the combination were predictable.

Claim 24:

Nielsen discloses the following limitation:

- *wherein the second program on the second computer has a schema module with features that are substantially equivalent to the schema module of the first program* (pages 8-9, Chapter 1, Introduction to Collaborative Commerce, 1.2.2 Lotus Sametime 1st – 2nd ¶¶ and Figure 5: which teaches that "[L]otus Sametime" offers "a customizable, standards-based platform for instant awareness, real-time communication (chat) and online meetings with application sharing and whiteboarding capabilities" where "enables users to share live documents, applications, and a whiteboard; for example, a seller can share a spreadsheet with a buyer". Nielsen teaches that a second computer (e.g. a buyer computer) is using the same program functions as the first computer as shown in Figure 5, which it illustrates a real-time video conferencing);

Claim 26:

Nielsen discloses the following limitation:

- *wherein the communication module is operated to support communication with a third computer under control of a business application, and wherein the predefined communication format provided by the business schema enables the first computer*

to participate in electronic business with the third computer (pages 8-9, Chapter 1, Introduction to Collaborative Commerce, 1.2.2 Lotus Sametime 1st – 2nd) and Figure 5: which teaches that “[l]otus Sametime” offers “a customizable, standards-based platform for instant awareness, real-time communication (chat) and online meetings with application sharing and whiteboarding capabilities” where “enables users to share live documents, applications, and a whiteboard; for example, a seller can share a spreadsheet with a buyer”. Nielsen teaches that a user or client (e.g. a second or third computers) are using the same program functions as the first computer as shown in Figure 5, which it illustrates a real-time video conferencing);

Claim 27:

Nielsen discloses the following limitation:

- *wherein the communication module is operated to forward the documents to the second computer and to the third computer for interpreting and processing* (pages 8-9, Chapter 1, Introduction to Collaborative Commerce, 1.2.2 Lotus Sametime 1st – 2nd) and Figure 5: which teaches that “[l]otus Sametime” offers “a customizable, standards-based platform for instant awareness, real-time communication (chat) and online meetings with application sharing and whiteboarding capabilities” where “enables users to share live documents, applications, and a whiteboard; for example, a seller can share a spreadsheet with a buyer”. Nielsen teaches that in a collaborative electronic business application, a user computer interprets and process the documents that are sent thought the collaborative environment);

Claim 28:

Nielsen discloses the following limitation:

- *wherein operating the schema module includes providing a selection mask to the user of the first computer to select a context for identifying documents and transactions* (pages 208-209Chapter 8, Sametime Development, 8.8.1 Knowing

when your buyers are logged in, 8.8.1.1 Considerations for using the Sametime Connect client, 2nd ¶: which teaches that “to add a filter, so the sales representative only sees the buyers he or she is associated with” where Nielsen teaches that the user selects which buyers are associate with him or her, which it is implicitly disclosed by using a selection mask, which is well known in the art as a filter that selectively includes or excludes certain values, a user selects different context regarding his or her needs);

Claim 29:

Nielsen discloses the following limitation:

- *further comprising operating a service module to combine input received from the user of the first computer with data from the repository to generate data that goes into the business document (page 120, Chapter 7, WebSphere Commerce Suite integration, 7.2.0.1 IBM Net.Data 3rd ¶: which teaches that “Net.Data interprets to create dynamic Web pages with customized content based on input from the user, the current state of your databases, other data sources” and “existing business logic” and Figures 73-74, which they illustrates where a user inputs data and generates a welcome page with related business document);*

- 13.** Claims 9, 19 and 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nielsen et al., B2B Collaborative Commerce with Sametime, QuickPlace and WebSphere Commerce Suite, *IBM International Technical Support Organization*, International Business Machine Corporation; August 2001; 274 pages; ibm.com/redbooks, hereinafter “Nielsen” as applied to claims 1-8, 11, 13-18, 20-21 and 23-32 in view of www.ebxml.org, News and Articles, ebXML - Enabling A Global Electronic Market, United Nations and OASIS Join Forces to Produce Global XML Framework for Electronic Business, Boston, MA, USA & Geneva, Switzerland, September 15, 1999, hereinafter “ebXML”.

Claim 9:

Nielsen does not disclose the following limitation. However, ebXML in an analogous art of collaboration tools for the purpose of communicating via a protocol ebXML (1st ¶) as shown does:

- *wherein the communication module is adapted to communicate via a protocol selected from the group of: ebXML messaging, SOAP, and WSDL (see at least 1st ¶: which teaches that "[t]he United Nations body for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business (UN/CEFACT) and the Organization for the Advancement of Structured Information Standards (OASIS) have joined forces to initiate a worldwide project to standardize XML business specifications" where ebXML teaches that ebXML specifications are standard in the exchange of electronic business data, such as SOAP, which is a simple XML-based protocol to let applications exchange information and WSDL is an XML-based language for describing Web services);*

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine the B2B Collaborative Commerce with Sametime, QuickPlace and WebSphere Commerce Suite of Nielsen with the Global XML Framework for Electronic Business as taught by ebXML because "[t]o be effective for global business, it is vital that XML specifications are based on a common framework," explained Bill Smith (Sun Microsystems), president of OASIS. "That framework does not exist today and, consequently, there are many--often competing--efforts underway worldwide. This new Electronic Business XML Working Group will end the confusion and duplication of effort that currently exists." Furthermore, they developed "a technical framework that" "enable XML to be utilized in a consistent manner for the exchange of all electronic business data" in order "to contribute to the growth of world trade". (ebXML, see at least 2nd and 3rd ¶).

Claim 19:

Nielsen does not disclose the following limitation. However, ebXML in an analogous art of collaboration tools for the purpose of communicating via a protocol ebXML (1st ¶) as shown does:

- *wherein the communication format comprises XML-based UBL (see at least 1st ¶; which teaches that “[t]he United Nations body for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business (UN/CEFACT) and the Organization for the Advancement of Structured Information Standards (OASIS) have joined forces to initiate a worldwide project to standardize XML business specifications” where XML-based UBL is a library of standard electronic XML business documents such as purchase orders and invoices which ebXML teaches that XML business specifications are standard in the exchange of electronic business data);*

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine the B2B Collaborative Commerce with Sametime, QuickPlace and WebSphere Commerce Suite of Nielsen with the Global XML Framework for Electronic Business as taught by ebXML because as explained in Claim 9.

Claim 22:

Nielsen does not disclose the following limitation. However, ebXML in an analogous art of collaboration tools for the purpose of communicating via a protocol ebXML (1st ¶) as shown does:

- *wherein communicating is supported by a communication module on the first computer and wherein the communication module communicates using a communication format wherein the communication format comprises XML-based UBL (see at least 1st ¶; which teaches that “[t]he United Nations body for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business (UN/CEFACT) and the Organization for the Advancement of Structured Information Standards (OASIS) have joined forces to initiate a worldwide project to standardize XML business specifications” where XML-based UBL is a library of standard electronic XML business documents such as purchase orders and invoices which ebXML teaches that XML business specifications are standard in the exchange of electronic business data);*

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine the B2B Collaborative Commerce with Sametime, QuickPlace and WebSphere Commerce Suite of Nielsen with the Global XML Framework for Electronic Business as taught by ebXML because "[t]o be effective for global business, it is vital that XML specifications are based on a common framework," explained Bill Smith (Sun Microsystems), president of OASIS. "That framework does not exist today and, consequently, there are many--often competing--efforts underway worldwide. This new Electronic Business XML Working Group will end the confusion and duplication of effort that currently exists." Furthermore, they developed "a technical framework that" "enable XML to be utilized in a consistent manner for the exchange of all electronic business data" in order "to contribute to the growth of world trade". (ebXML, see at least 2nd and 3rd ¶).

14. Claims 12 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nielsen et al., B2B Collaborative Commerce with Sametime, QuickPlace and WebSphere Commerce Suite, *IBM International Technical Support Organization*, International Business Machine Corporation; August 2001; 274 pages; ibm.com/redbooks, hereinafter "Nielsen" as applied to claims 1-8, 11, 13-18, 20-21 and 23-32 in view of Official Notice.

Claim 12:

Nielsen, as shown do not disclose the following limitation:

- *wherein the selection mask has pull-down options*

However, with regard to the limitations *wherein the selection mask has pull-down options*, the Examiner takes **Official Notice** that it is old and well known in information system and software developing environment and to one of the ordinary skill in the art to use a selection mask (e.g., a filter) with a pull-down options because is a user friendly and well know for example, when a user select the option File a pull-down menu appears. It is also called a *drop-down menu*, where a menu of commands or options appears when a user selects an item with a mouse. The item a user selects is generally at the top of the display screen, and the menu appears just below

it, as if you had pulled it down as evidenced by JavaScript Drop Down Boxes, Adding Drop Down Boxes

(<http://web.archive.org/web/20001205095500/http://pageresource.com/jscript/jdropbox.htm>)

December 5, 2000 where page 1 illustrate a drop down box and Ellis et al., Button vs. menus: An explanatory study of pull-down menu selection as compared to buttons bars, Human-Computer Interaction Laboratory, June 1995 which teaches a pull-down menu selection effectiveness.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine the B2B Collaborative Commerce with Sametime, QuickPlace and WebSphere Commerce Suite of Nielsen with the Global XML Framework for Electronic Business as taught by ebXML with the old and well-known practice of pull-down options menu because it provides a more user friendly interface and will therefore increase consumer appeal.

Conclusion

15. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.
- Elkin et al., (US 2001/0044738 A1) disclose a method and system for top-down business process definition and execution.
 - JavaScript Drop Down Boxes, Adding Drop Down Boxes (<http://web.archive.org/web/20001205095500/http://pageresource.com/jscript/jdropbox.htm>) where page 1 illustrates a drop down box.
 - Ellis et al., Button vs. menus: An explanatory study of pull-down menu selection as compared to buttons bars, Human-Computer Interaction Laboratory, June 1995, which teaches a pull-down menu selection effectiveness.
 - Business Process Project Team, ebXML Business Process Specification Schema Version 1.01, UN/CEFACT and OASIS, 11 May 2001 disclose that the ebXML Specification Schema provides a standard framework by which business systems

Art Unit: 3623

may be configured to support execution of business collaborations consisting of business transactions.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or concerning this communication or earlier communications from the Examiner should be directed to **Nadja Chong** whose telephone number is **571.270.3939**. The Examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 9:30am-5:00pm. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the Examiner's supervisor, **BETH BOSWELL** can be reached at **571.272.6737**.

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